



Fixed Nuclear Facility Preparedness Program

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Background

Energy Northwest (formally known as the Supply System) is the owner and operator of the only commercial nuclear power plant located in Washington State. This plant, called Columbia Generating Station (CGS), is situated on land leased from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) on the Hanford Reservation, about 12 miles northwest of Richland, Washington. CGS is an 1175-megawatt nuclear power plant that began commercial power generation in 1984. CGS is licensed by the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and regulated by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The NRC sets standards, inspects, and evaluates plant operations on a regular basis to ensure safety and compliance with NRC regulations. These evaluations include on-site emergency preparedness activities that are geared to protect the health and safety of plant employees and the general public.

Emergency Preparedness

Energy Northwest provides on-site preparedness for an emergency. Protection of the public from off-site impacts of an emergency at the power plant involves coordination by Energy Northwest, a variety of state agencies, and local jurisdiction emergency management offices to prepare for this possibility. Together emergency plans and procedures have been developed and exercised to ensure the public health and safety in the event of an accident. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for monitoring and evaluating all off-site emergency preparedness activities to ensure compliance with federal laws, regulations and guidelines.

Funding

Energy Northwest provides funding for CGS off-site emergency preparedness program and activities. This funding, administered by EFSEC, currently provides support for affected local jurisdictions and state agencies. The FNF off-site Preparedness Program partners include: Benton, Franklin, Grant, Adams, Walla Walla, and Yakima County emergency management agencies; Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division; Washington State Department of Health, Division of Radiation Protection; Washington State Department of Agriculture; and the Washington State Patrol.

State Response

Washington State agencies, affected local jurisdictions, Energy Northwest, and federal agencies continue to plan, coordinate, and exercise their ability to respond to an emergency at CGS. Together, they are capable of responding effectively to an emergency at the plant to protect the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Washington.

Contact

For more information, please contact Mary Alice Peterson, FNF/DOE Program Manager, at (509) 736-3010 or e-mail m.peterson@emd.wa.gov.